

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHARLES R. FRANK, JR. ONLY  
FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DAR ES SALAAM INFO KHARTOUM  
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QUOTE  
FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORG, ETRD, SEDU, GB, US  
SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY FRANK AND GOG OFFICIALS

1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (DAS) CHARLES FRANK MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOG FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF PLAN, AND COUNSELORS FROM PRESIDENCY ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25. DISCUSSION COVERED COMMON FUND, COCOA AGREEMENT, ILLICIT PAYMENTS, AND MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN). GABONESE RESPONDED IN GENERAL TERMS, AND ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT RAISED WAS THAT OF USG-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GABONESE STUDENTS. DISCUSSIONS COULD BE DESCRIBED AS USEFUL, AND GABONESE WERE PLEASED THAT TIME WAS AVAILABLE FOR MEETING WITH DAS FRANK. COMPLETE MEMCON IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO DAS FRANK FOR CLEARANCE. END SUMMARY.  
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2. COMMON FUND: DAS FRANK OUTLINED US POSITION ON COMMON FUND AND HIS UNDERSTANDING OF G-77 ATTITUDES. HE WENT INTO DETAILED EXPLANATION OF USG POSITION RE SECOND WINDOW OR "OTHER MEASURES" AND MENTIONED SEVERAL AREAS WHERE FLEXIBILITY OF US POSITION EXISTS: CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR FUND

HILE MAINTAINING POSITION THAT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATION IS NOT PRESENT, ADJUSTMENT OF VIEW ON RATIO OF CASH DEPOSIT TO BORROWING CAPABILITY, AND NEED FOR GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED EQUITY TO ENABLE FUND TO BORROW MORE EFFECTIVELY ON INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. US WAS MOST WILLING TO RETURN TO NEGOTIATING TABLE BUT FELT THAT RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE HARMFUL IF NO AGREEMENT WERE POSSIBLE. FOR THIS REASON US IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

3. GABONESE OFFICIALS COULD NOT SPEAK FOR G-77 BUT STRESSED NEED FOR COMMON FUND AND THEIR CONCERN FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THEY VIEW COMMON FUND AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. ALTHOUGH GABON SEES FIRST WINDOW OF FUND AS MORE IMPORTANT ELEMENT, GABON WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH G-77 POSITION ON SECOND WINDOW YET PLAY A MODERATE ROLE. GOG REPS REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION ON US COMMON FUND PROPOSALS IN WRITING.

4. CACAO AGREEMENT: DISCUSSION ON CACAO AGREEMENT WAS VERY BRIEF BUT DAS FRANK INDICATED US INTERESTS IN RENEGOTIATING CACAO AGREEMENT BUT COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE THAT US WOULD JOIN. ALTHOUGH GABONESE EXPRESSED NEED TO ENLARGE STABEX SYSTEM, THEY WERE MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERESTED IN PROTECTION OFFERED BY IMF COMPENSATORY FINANCING FACILITY. DAS FRANK MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING SOME STABEX FEATURES IN IMF FACILITY. THIS WAS ONE POINT ON WHICH GABONESE REQUESTED FURTHER DETAILS IN WRITING FOR ADDITIONAL AND COMPLETE STUDY.

5. MTN NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION ON MTN WAS ALSO BRIEF, BUT DAS FRANK EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WHICH US ATTACHES TO MTN AND OUTLINED US POSITION. RESPONSIBLE GABONESE OFFICIALS FOR MTN WERE NOT PRESENT, BUT GABONESE DELEGATION IN GENEVA WAS COMPETENT TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

6. ILLICIT PAYMENTS: US POSITION ON NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS WAS OUTLINED, TOGETHER WITH USG UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON INCLUDING PAYMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA WHILE STRESSING THAT SUCH ISSUES BE TAKEN UP IN POLITICAL FORUM (UN SECURITY COUNCIL). GABONESE INDICATED THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PAYMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN TREATY YET WERE MOST INTERESTED IN PROVISIONS OF US LAW ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND UNDERSTOOD HARM THAT SUCH PAYMENTS CAUSED TO

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH HIGHER PRICES FOR IMPORTS  
NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

7. ONLY ISSUE RAISED BY GABONESE WAS THAT OF MORE  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GABONESE STUDENTS TO STUDY IN US.  
PRESIDENCY REPRESENTATIVE MADE APPEAL FOR TEN TO TWENTY  
SCHOLARSHIPS PER YEAR, PRIMARILY IN TECHNICAL FIELDS.  
(AT LUNCHEON FOLLOWIN FORORMAL DISCUSSIONS, GABONESE MADE  
RATHER BITTER INDICTMENT OF PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM  
IN GABON AS PART OF FRENCH COLONIAL HERITAGE WHICH WAS  
TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR MODERN WORLD AND FOR GABON'S  
NEEDS. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS RATHER THAN CLASSICAL  
ONES.) GABONES ALSO EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT OPEC  
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MEMBERSHIP APPARENTLY EXCLUDED GABON FROM INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND AID FUNDS; THEY MAINTAIN GABON IS POORT  
COUNTRY STILL IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND STILL, THEREFORE,  
DESERVING OF SUCH AID.TIENKEN QNQUOTE  
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